

MONTPELIER

HISTORY OF MONTPELIER.

The priority of the settlement of Montpelier is conceded to Col. Jacob Davis, an emigrant from Massachusetts, who, with his cousin Parley Davis, had become interested in the wild lands to the north, and in 1787 came to abide in this part of the wilderness of Vermont, on the banks of the Winooski. The family of Col. Davis came the following year, completing and clinching the Davis title to priority of actual and permanent settlement. Over against this claim to the honor of founding Montpelier is placed that of Timothy Bigelow, on the ground

from Newbury to Montpelier in 1788.

Situated at the confluence of the Winooski and its North Branch, on their low-lying banks, Montpelier was in early times often inundated. In the last half century three notable floods have occurred. In the summer of 1829, after a period of heavy rains, the rivers rose and swept through the streets, filling the cellars and submerging the grounds and lower floors of residences and business houses on the streets near the stream. In the fall of 1830, the rivers again overflowed their banks and flooded the village. Judges of the court were taken from the

rate of taxation and provide sufficient funds for a gradual reduction of the municipal debt, realizing however the necessity for such public improvements as the conditions of the times would permit. It is almost needless to say that under the present administration Montpelier is one of the best governed cities in the commonwealth.

BARRE RAILROAD COMPANY.

The only railroad to the celebrated and far-famed Barre Granite Quarries and the only railroad operating so many miles of high grade track in connection with any granite industry in the world. The road was constructed in 1883, running from Barre, Vt., to Millstone Mountain for the transportation of granite from the quarries to Barre. The Barre railroad is standard gauge and operates about twenty-seven miles of track. Four miles out of Barre City the main line reaches an altitude of 1025 feet above the sea. The road is built on the mountain and tracks from the main line run directly into the quarries, many of which are the largest granite quarries in the world. The same derricks used in raising massive blocks of granite from the nature's bed, place the same directly on cars for shipment to all parts of the United States.

The building of the Barre railroad has done more to help develop the granite industry of New England than all other roads combined.

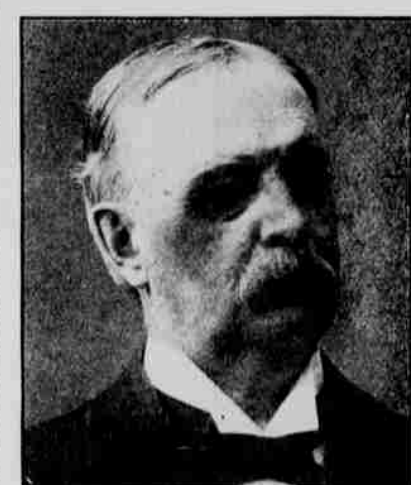
Many attempts and surveys were made previous to 1883 to build a railroad to Barre, but all were abandoned as impracticable and impossible until the late Daniel R. Sordell of Cambridge, Mass., organized and constructed the Barre railroad which gives the producers of Barre granite transportation facilities unequalled by any granite producing center in the world. The largest granite blocks ever quarried and transported by rail in the United States are now shipped from the Barre quarries.

The photograph of special car with 11 foot 4 inch square granite base, illustrates the construction of cars and manner of loading large stone for shipment. These cars have a carrying capacity of 100,000 pounds, and are constructed with a "well hole" in center of car and in order to bring the stone to height within the limit that different railroads in the country will accept, the granite bases are loaded through the cars and to within a few inches of the "well hole" or pocket.

The views of the surrounding country and distant mountain peaks including Camel's Hump and Mount Mansfield, from different points en route and from the summit are grand beyond description. A visit to Vermont is not complete without a trip over the Barre Railroad and a visit to Vermont's greatest industry, the Barre granite quarries.

HON. HIRAM CARLETON.

Judge of Probate for the district of Washington. Mr. Carleton was born in Barre, August 28, 1838, and graduated from the University of Vermont in 1860. He was admitted to the Washington county bar in 1865. In 1870 Mr. Carleton was elected state attorney for the county and served two years. He came to Montpelier in 1872 and was appointed judge of probate in 1883. He has for many years been an officer of the Vermont bar association and was president of the Vermont Historical Society. He represented Vermont in the general assembly in 1869 and 1870. He is intensely interested in all educational and historical matters.



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D. S. WHEATLEY.

Dealer in dry goods, Ladies' Wearing Apparel and Novelties, Langdon Street. This store is thoroughly up-to-date in every respect. The building is a modern one, the interior arrangements are of 20th century style and the stock and management are what the public demand. Mr. Wheatley for five years was a member of the firm of Howe & Wheatley but in 1888 was established for himself in the J. W. Ellis block. He is a native Vermont, having been born in Brookfield. He came to Montpelier in 1885 and his present store, a cut of which is shown herewith, is a substantial proof of his success. It is considered one of the best in the state in appearance and equipment.

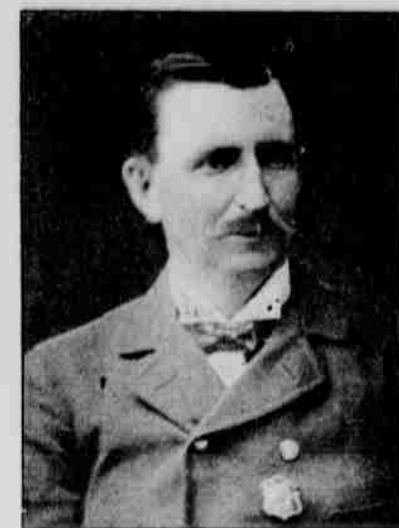
CHARLES C. GRAVES.

Washington county's popular sheriff is a native of Middlesex Vt., born Feb. 17, 1855. He has served as an officer for many years and his election to the sheriff's office was due to efficient service in the performance of his duty. He was later and constant in his native town before moving to Waterbury where he now resides and where he served eight years in same capacity. He is now serving his second term.



D. S. WHEATLEY'S STORE.

and term and his conduct of the office, giving eminent satisfaction. He has rounded himself with capable deputies and gives all his time in attendance upon the office.



C. C. GRAVES.

on the various duties involved in the conduct of the office. He is officer of the supreme court of the state which requires much of his time.

A. D. FARWELL & CO.

Dealers in Gentlemen's Ready to Wear Garments, Langdon Block, Main street. A. D. Farwell, Charles E. Kingsbury and Robert F. Bliss. This company occupies the very best store in the city of Montpelier and it is doubtful if there is one as large and well furnished anywhere in the state. The history of the house dates from 1849 when Mr. Farwell started business in the Spaulding block.



INTERIOR OF A. D. FARWELL'S STORE.

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Brown purchased Mr. McCormick's interest in the business. Mr. Ryle is now superintendent and general manager of the works. He is a native of Watfield, Vermont, coming here fourteen years ago. He has been senior member of this firm since its foundation, and is a thoroughly practical man at the business, having had many years experience. The firm is in a most excellent condition for handling large work and now have under way some very large contracts. They have built some of the finest specimens of artistic monumental work to be seen anywhere.

MONTPELIER SAVINGS BANK AND TRUST COMPANY.

It is fitting that one of the most solid and substantial financial institutions of the capital city should find its home in the handsome and imposing Langdon block, that adorns the corner of Main and State streets, a double attraction to the citizens of Montpelier. The financial condition of the institution today is an earnest of the esteem in which it is held at home and abroad, as well as a tribute to careful, brainy and straightforward management. The construction and equipment of the bank's home is just what present-day needs demand. It speaks the word that 20 years of the bank's life have spelled for the people—safety. Beside well-nigh impregnable safes and vaults, the company provides and rents over 100 safety deposit boxes and a system of checks and duplicate books insures their safe keeping of their contents. In the thirty years during which it has been doing business the company has never failed to pay regular dividends to its stockholders. It has paid in interest on deposits during that time a sum considerably in excess of \$1,000,000.



and today it carries deposits exceeding \$250,000. These facts and figures are eloquent in themselves and proclaim the institution's influence throughout the community. The officers of the bank are: James W. Brock, president; L. Burt Cross, vice president; Albert W. Ferrin, treasurer. The above, with Mr. Sordell and W. W. Brock, constitute the board of trustees. Homer W. Heaton was the first president when the bank commenced business in 1867 and Whitman G. Ferrin, father of the present official, was the first treasurer. The company was the second of its kind chartered in the state. There were 55 subscribers to the original stock of \$50,000, many of whom have since passed away. It is a significant fact that, so far as can be learned, not a single share of the company's stock is today offered for sale at any price.

THE MONTPELIER NATIONAL BANK.

Albert Tuttle, president, Levi H. Bixby, cashier. This city noted for its important financial institutions has in this bank a safe repository for the funds of its commercial houses and the large interests which are centered here. By its operation modern methods of banking are provided and every convenience afforded that is available in the largest cities. Its record of business covering a period of over thirty-six years stamps it as among the solid banks of the country and its position today is evidence of the stability of the national banking law. It was chartered under act of congress June 3, 1864 and received a renewal of its charter. The first board of directors were James R. Langdon, Elsie P. Jewett, George C. Shepard, Daniel Baldwin, Rawsel R. Keith, Carlos Bancroft and Dennison Taft. James R. Langdon was its president, George C. Shepard vice president and Charles A. Reed cashier. By the death of Carlos Bancroft in 1876 Albert Johnson was elected to fill the place made vacant. E. D. Blackwell was elected cashier to fill the position made vacant by the resignation of Charles A. Reed in 1881 which position he held till December, 1888 when Levi H. Bixby was elected cashier. At the death of James R. Langdon in Sept. 1885, Albert Tuttle was elected president which position he



RYLE & MCCORMICK CO'S PLANT.

still holds. The present board of directors are Albert Tuttle, George W. Scott, James W. Brock and Arthur D. Farwell. The capital stock of the bank is \$150,000, surplus and undivided profits \$13,732.17, S. bonds at par \$251,000, other bonds \$86,250. It has conveniently arranged offices in the central business section of the city, provided with modern safeguards and under the protection of its funds. Its officers and directors are well known business men and financiers who are identified with all that tends to the advancement of the city's interests. The bank transacts a general business in its varied details, accepts deposits subject to check, negotiates commercial paper, issues drafts on corresponding banks in foreign countries, and favors its customers with loans on approved collateral security.

CAPITAL SAVINGS BANK & TRUST COMPANY.

The Capital Savings Bank and Trust Company was granted its charter from the Legislature of the State of Vermont



VERMONT MUTUAL INSURANCE 1828.

In 1820 after encountering a strong opposition from the friends of the banks then established in Montpelier who claimed that there was no room for another bank and that a new bank could not hope to succeed in competition with old established banks managed by such eminent financiers as Hon. James R. Langdon, Hon. John A. Page and Hon. Homer W. Heaton, all now deceased. The capital stock of \$50,000 of the new bank was immediately taken on notice that the books were open to receive subscriptions therefor. The taking of large amounts of stock by single individuals was not encouraged by the commissioners which resulted in a very large number of stockholders owning its capital in different sections of the state.

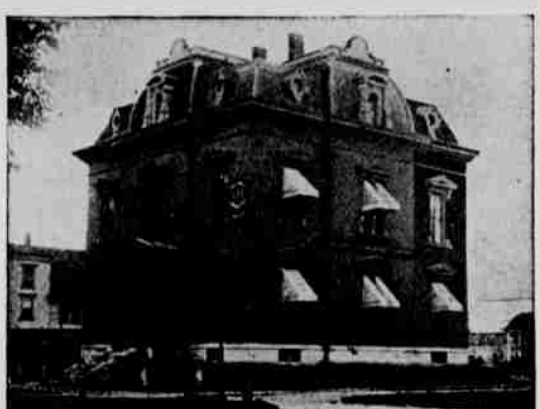
The Capital Savings Bank and Trust Company called in a part of its capital and commenced business in the spring of 1881. Its depositors like its stockholders, were largely secured. Those desiring large capital protection for their deposits brought their money to this new bank. It now has the largest assets of any bank in the city with one exception, having deposits at the present time of \$500,000 and



VERMONT MUTUAL 1882.

total assets of \$700,000. It has paid dividends from the beginning of not less than 5 per cent and most of the time 6 per cent on the capital stock and 3 per cent and 4 per cent interest to its depositors. It also has a business department of deposits of active accounts on which it pays interest at the rate of 2 per cent per annum. It put in over 100 safe deposit boxes, the first ones in the city, in a burglar-proof safe in a fire proof vault, affording renters ample protection against loss by fire or theft, which rented for \$5 a year each affording a fine income on their cost. At the first meeting of the stockholders the following board of seven trustees was elected and put in charge of the bank: T. J. Deavitt, H. N. Taplin, Albert Johnson, A. J. Sibley and E. E. Blakely, of Montpelier, and Alex. Cochran of Groton, and George P. Sibley, of North Montpelier. The only change in this board has

been that of E. E. Blakely resigned and was succeeded by Geo. L. Blanchard. First officers were T. J. Deavitt, President, Alex. Cochran and H. N. Taplin, Vice Presidents and E. E. Blakely, Treasurer. The officers remain the same with the change of E. E. Blakely resigned the office of treasurer in 1885 and was succeeded by Frank N. Smith, of Waterbury, who is the present Treasurer, and Albert Johnson and A. J. Sibley are the Vice Presidents.



VERMONT MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The earliest settlement of Montpelier is assigned to the year 1787. Here was the "forest primeval." In that year Colonel Jacob Davis reared his cabin on the banks of the Winooski and began to subdue the wilderness. A prosperous town was founded in 1806 it was made the Capital of the State, and a few years later the shire of Jefferson—subsequently Washington county.

It was characteristic of the thrift and foresight of the settlers that one of the earliest projects that engaged their attention was indemnity for the loss of their property by fire. To this end was incorporated in November, 1827, the Vermont Mutual Fire Insurance Company, which was organized and started in business in March, 1828. Up to the beginning of the nineteenth century, the business of insurance had been, for the most part, carried on by individuals, but at about the time the Vermont Mutual came into existence it had passed into the hands of incorporated institutions, among which this company was one of the earliest to take its place.

In the three-quarters of a century of its existence, insurance companies, in the state and elsewhere, have come and

gone, but the "Old Mutual" has steadily pursued the even tenor of its way, always increasing in business, prosperity and stability. The roster of officers is as follows: President, Fred E. Smith; secretary, James T. Sabin; treasurer, William T. Dewey. Directors: Washington county, Fred E. Smith, Louis P. Gleason, Melville E. Sordell, James T. Sabin, George O. Stratton, Addison county, R. H. Preble, Bennington county, J. R. Judson, Caledonia county, E. T. Ide, Chittenden county, Julius S. Hickok, Essex county, George S. Robinson, Franklin county, A. L. Galsusha, Grand Isle county, H. W. Marvin, Lamoille county, Henry M. Noyes, Orange county, James K. Lynde, Orleans county, J. N. Webster, Rutland county, George Briggs, Windham county, James L. Martin, Windsor county, William W. Stickney. This seventy-third annual report of the company shows that it paid \$75,515 in losses during the year. The amount of insurance the company was then carrying was \$543,186. Its premium note capital for payment of losses was \$428,641. The whole number of policies in force was 12,500 of which 12,500 were issued during the year covered by that report, insuring property to the amount of \$17,000,702. The seventy-fourth annual report will show, as has every previous report, a very material expansion of the figures which express the volume of new business secured, and the increment to the company's elements of strength and stability. The assessments for the past year were four per cent, the rate which has prevailed since 1867. The facts of each succeeding annual report show that the company's judicious management, honorable dealing, low rate and prompt adjustment of losses are year by year more and more appreciated by Vermonters in want of fire insurance protection.

C. H. CROSS & SON.

VERMONT MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Wholesale and retail bakers and confectioners, Main street. The history of this firm of manufacturing bakers and confectioners has been one of a steady, sure and accumulative growth. It was founded in 1828, by Messrs. Timothy and C. H. Cross, the proprietors remaining continuously in the same family. Timothy Cross retired a few years later and the business was continued by C. H. Cross alone. The present firm name was adopted in 1863, the senior member having retired in 1857, since which date L. Burt Cross has been the sole proprietor. This plant is one of the important and well known industries of Vermont, the product of which has for years been well known and largely used throughout this state and the adjoining territory. Several teams are kept constantly busy in the delivery of goods. It was here the celebrated Boston cracker was originated, which has since been imitated so generally throughout the country. A full line of breads, crackers, cakes and confections are produced here. The plant is commodious and has been enlarged as the trade warranted. It is cut of the building where the offices are located is shown herewith. The business gives employment to twenty-five people. One of the well known specialties of this concern is the Montpelier Cracker, which is largely used by the people of Vermont and ranks among the highest grades in the cracker market. The line of candies includes all of the popular-priced articles and varieties of commerce. Several traveling salesmen are employed, and under a forceful management this old house occupies a leading position among the trade. Mr. Cross is one of the substantial business men of Montpelier, being prominently identified with some of the city's foremost institutions.



C. H. CROSS & SON'S BAKERY.